

him to the presidency of our nation's largest higher education institution.

President Padron's transformational undertakings at Miami Dade College, resulting in 174,000 students enrolled, greater student access, retention, graduation and overall achievement, have been hailed as the model for innovation in higher education. Currently, MDC enrolls the most minorities nationally—including the most African Americans and Hispanics. The recent list of awards applauding MDC's achievements includes the 2011 Council for Higher Education Accreditation "Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes" and the "U.S. President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll."

President Padron's achievements in higher education have earned him hundreds of coveted awards, commendations and appointments. Six American presidents have nominated him to nationally prominent posts. Recently, President Obama selected him to represent the United States at the UNESCO's World Conference on Higher Education and appointed him as chair of the White House Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. President Clinton named him one of America's foremost educators and President George W. Bush nominated him to the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board and the National Economic Summit. Among his list of prestigious awards are the "2008 Charles Kennedy Equity Award," "2008 Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award," and the "2008 Innovator of the Year" from the League for Innovation.

Please join me in honoring Miami Dade College President Eduardo J. Padron for his commitment to making quality education accessible to minorities and for his revolutionary contributions to higher education.

RESEARCH WORKS ACT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer the following statement along with my colleague from New York and the original cosponsor of H.R. 3699, Representative CAROLYN B. MALONEY:

The introduction of H.R. 3699 has spurred a robust, expansive debate on the topics of scientific and scholarly publishing, intellectual property protection, and public access to federally funded research. Since its introduction, we have heard from numerous stakeholders and interested parties on both sides of this important issue.

As the costs of publishing continue to be driven down by new technology, we will continue to see a growth in open access publishers. This new and innovative model appears to be the wave of the future. The transition must be collaborative, and must respect copyright law and the principles of open access. The American people deserve to have access to research for which they have paid. This conversation needs to continue and we have come to the conclusion that the Research Works Act has exhausted the useful role it can play in the debate. As such, we want Americans concerned about access to

research and other participants in this debate to know we will not be taking legislative action on H.R. 3699, the Research Works Act. We do intend to remain involved in efforts to examine and study the protection of intellectual property rights and open access to publicly funded research.

H.R. 1433, THE PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2012

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 1433, the "Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2012." This bill is a solution in search of a problem. Its sweeping prohibition against the use of eminent domain for economic development that would cripple community efforts at a time when they're needed more than ever.

There are time honored principles for the exercise of eminent domain by State and local governments. I support the Constitutional protections already in place to prevent taking of private property without fair compensation. Governments should certainly exercise great care in using eminent domain.

Many major economic and ecological initiatives would be difficult, if not impossible, without eminent domain. I believe economic development is a legitimate use of this tool; my community has used it for a number of critical developments, including key high tech projects that have laid the foundation for decades of prosperity.

I would support action to prevent abuse and capricious use of eminent domain. But this bill would make it nearly impossible for communities to use it. This bill is too restrictive and will become an impediment to economic development. Its financial penalties could bankrupt communities and even the risk of potential future violation of the law could affect a jurisdiction's borrowing power today.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

PATRICK H. DALY, JR.

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincerest thanks and appreciation to my District Director, Patrick H. Daly, Jr., for his seven years of service to me. Pat has been a vital part of my staff from before I was even elected to Congress, serving in my Maryland State Senate office as a Legislative Assistant. As District Director to a House freshman, he took on the many logistical challenges of setting up my three district offices in Kent Island, Salisbury, and Bel Air. He also oversaw my casework operations, which provided help to 1,200 constituents in the last year. He coordinated many constituent events and town hall meetings to keep me in tune with my District and hear the voice of the people. Simply put, Pat has always been there to see that the job is done, no matter how large or small the task may be. Pat has crossed the First Congress-

sional District too many times to count in the name of constituent service, and provided goodwill among its residents that is immeasurable. I offer my very best wishes to Pat and his family for his bright future ahead.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY BAUGUS AS THE 2013 SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeffrey A. Baugus as the 2013 Santa Rosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year and the first Santa Rosa County Middle School teacher to ever win the award.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Tell me, and I forget. Teach me, and I remember. Involve me, and I learn." It is with great honor that I recognize Jeffrey Baugus for his ability to not only teach, but to involve and inspire those around him. The best teachers are those who not only educate, but those who strive every day to actively engage their pupils. Mr. Baugus embodies this spirit. By supplementing lessons with humor and advanced technology, Mr. Baugus gives mathematics a whole new meaning to his students. Through his innovative teaching practices, he gives his students the tools to succeed.

Mr. Baugus's impact is felt both inside and outside the classroom. He proves that education is never ending, and teaches his students there is always room for improvement. Following this mantra, in 2010, Mr. Baugus completed a Masters in Education in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Middle School Mathematics. In addition to his role teaching Algebra I, he is also an active member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Air Force Association, and the Santa Rosa County Council of Teachers of Mathematics, where he serves as President. Today's award is not Mr. Baugus's first, and I am sure it will not be his last. Over the last few years, he was awarded the 2009 Air Force Association (Hurlburt Chapter) Teacher of the Year, the 2009 Santa Rosa County Middle School Math Teacher of the Year, the 2009 QWBMS Rookie of the Year, and 2012 Teacher of the Year for Woodlawn Beach Middle School.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an immense honor and is evidence of Mr. Baugus's tireless work and dedication to his students and his profession. Mr. Baugus has proven himself to be among Northwest Florida's finest teachers. The Santa Rosa County, Florida School District is honored to have him as one of its own.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Jeffrey Baugus on this achievement and his exemplary service in the Santa Rosa County School District. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mr. Baugus, and we wish him and his family all the best.

HONORING COMMANDER PAUL B.
SPOHN, USN

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my most heartfelt congratulations to Commander Paul B. Spohn, United States Navy, for a distinguished career. Commander Spohn recently retired as the Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Crane, one of the many command posts throughout his career. I would like to especially recognize Commander Spohn for his leadership at NSA Crane, the world's third largest Naval Installation, based in Indiana's 8th Congressional District.

Commander Spohn began his 35 year career by enlisting in the Navy as a Boiler Technician in January 1977 and received his commission in June 1990 through the Limited Duty Officer Program.

His many achievements in academics and the Navy have made him an officer that all sailors and citizens should emulate. His dedication to our nation has spanned many decades and many posts and for that I would like to thank Commander Spohn.

HONORING THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE USO CENTER AT THE
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIR-
PORT

HON. RICHARD B. NUGENT

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, on January 18th, 2012 the USO Board of Governors voted to approve the establishment of the USO Center at the Tampa International Airport.

This has been a long process, but thanks to a hardworking team of volunteers, the USO in Tampa is excited about serving the roughly 40,000 active military and their families living in the Tampa Bay area that may use Tampa International Airport as well as the approximately 300,000 that fly in and out of the Tampa International Airport on a yearly basis.

As both a Congressman and a father of three sons in the U.S. Army, I know how important the USO services are to our men and women in uniform. When I visit with the veterans in my district, I hear their stories of watching Bob Hope in the USO Concerts and receiving packages with urgent supplies from the USO on Christmas. Today's USO centers give our active duty heroes a place to relax, if only for a few minutes.

The new facility in the Tampa International Airport will allow members of our local communities the opportunity to recognize the service and sacrifice of this Nation's proud active duty servicemembers and their families.

I am a proud supporter of this outstanding institution and welcome its arrival in the Tampa International Airport.

azerbaijan

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, since declaring its independence from the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has been a valuable ally to the United States in a turbulent region. In the true spirit of friendship, it seems appropriate for Congress to note the 20th anniversaries of two important events in their country's history which take place in late-February.

February 26 marked the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy which is the largest of Azerbaijani civilians in the country's history.

The town of Khojaly is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and was then home to some 7,000 Azerbaijani citizens. On February 25–26, 1992, in a period of less than 12 hours, 613 citizens were slain at the hands of Armenian forces.

In the wake of these atrocities, Human Rights Watch described the advancing forces as committing "unconscionable acts of violence against civilians as they fled." Given our deepening ties with Azerbaijan it is important for American citizens to remember this event.

February 28 is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Azerbaijani-American diplomatic relations, which is an event forming a partnership which of importance to both countries.

The initial focus of these relations was on trade between the two countries and, in particular, Azerbaijan's abundant natural resources. Today, Azerbaijan is a full partner to the United States, working with us and our allies to safeguard our combined security and prosperity.

One of the most telling examples of their commitment to this partnership came in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when Azerbaijan pledged to stand by the United States as in our efforts to secure the homeland and bring justice to the perpetrators of this tragedy.

True to its word, Azerbaijan has supported allied efforts in the War on Terror by allowing unrestricted access to its territory for American aircraft, troops and supplies, as well as committing its own troops to fight alongside our own.

As these two important anniversaries come to pass, I join Azerbaijan in mourning those who died in Khojaly, celebrating 20 years of shared diplomatic relations, and hoping for the continued security and prosperity of our nations in an ever-more dangerous world.

HONORING DWIGHT AND SHARON
POAGE AND THE MAYAN FAMI-
LIES

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Dwight and Sharon Poage and the Mayan Families for their extraordinary passion for causes that have made enduring positive differences in people's lives in the Lake Atitlan region of Guatemala.

This record recognizes the Mayan Families' strong partnership with the Upper Arlington Rotary Club in jointly creating sustainable humanitarian focused projects that provide opportunities, hope and a future for the indigenous and impoverished people in Guatemala.

Your commitment to potable water, children and adult nutrition, education and improving basic essential living conditions in the underserved communities has had a profound impact. On behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District I commend your dedicated efforts for the families of Guatemala.

HONORING THE LIVES OF CAPTAIN
RYAN P. HALL OF COLORADO
SPRINGS, COLORADO; CAPTAIN
NICHOLAS S. WHITLOCK OF
NEWMAN, GEORGIA; FIRST LIEU-
TENANT JUSTIN J. WILKENS, OF
BEND, OREGON; AND SENIOR
AIRMAN JULIAN S. SCHOLTEN
OF UPPER MARLBORO, MARY-
LAND

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy and solemn gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to four of our nation's fallen heroes: Captain Ryan P. Hall of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Captain Nicholas S. Whitlock of Newman, Georgia; First Lieutenant Justin J. Wilkens, of Bend, Oregon; and Senior Airman Julian S. Scholten of Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

These four brave, young men paid the ultimate price in defense of our nation's freedom when their U-28 aircraft went down near Djibouti, Africa on Saturday, February 18, 2012. They were members of the United States Air Force Special Operations Command. Of their dedication to duty, courage of heart, and commitment to their nation, there can be no doubt. They were living examples of the Airman's Creed, "I am an American Airman, guardian of freedom and justice, my nation's sword and shield, its sentry and avenger. I defend my Country with my life." Upon the altar of freedom, they have fulfilled their vow to defend their country and paid the ultimate price.

The report of this tragic incident pierced the hearts of their families, friends, and the AFSOC community. It reminds us that there is no greater sacrifice than that in which one gives his life for others.

While there are no words that we can say here on the floor today that will bring back Ryan, Nicholas, Justin, and Julian to those who love them and know them best, we can and will honor their service and sacrifice. We have heard many times and know in our hearts the truth that Freedom often demands of us a heavy and at times unbearable price. It is a burden of loss that rests heavily upon those who love them.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful United States Congress, I stand here today to honor these four men and all of the heroes we have lost. My wife, Vicki joins me in offering our deepest, most sincere condolences and prayers to their families and friends. May God continue to bless them, the AFSOC community, and the United States Armed Forces.